



**United States Department of Justice
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News Release

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Court says Wisconsin man must pay back stolen Social Security funds

A 58-year-old New Glarus, Wisc., man today agreed in federal court to pay \$66,750 for defrauding the Social Security Administration.

According to papers filed May 8 in Minneapolis, Gary Olson made false statements and false representations to the administration for the purpose of receiving his deceased mother's Social Security widow benefits to which he was not legally entitled. Under the terms of the settlement, Olson made an immediate payment of \$14,000. United States District Court Judge John Tunheim issued a judgment May 22 for the remaining balance, which Olson will pay over time.

According to the complaint, Olson's mother received widow benefits of \$760 per month. Olson had Power of Attorney for his mother and was able to access her savings account for the purpose of paying her living expenses while she was alive. She died on July 23, 2001, but Olson failed to report her death.

As a result, from July 2001 to September 2007, Social Security continued to pay benefits directly into his mother's savings account. Using his Power of Attorney, Olson electronically transferred the overpayment money into his own account and used it for his personal gain.

Assistant U.S. Attorney David Fuller handled the case on behalf of the U.S.